

DAILY PT POINTERS

15th October,
2024



HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu-Environment(GSIII)-Page 4

Govt. notifies curbs on firecrackers; GRAP Stage 1 plan kicks in

Order issued a month after Environment Minister Gopal Rai announced to clamp the ban; CAQM imposes restrictions on construction activities

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government on Monday notified a total ban on the production, sale, storage, and bursting of firecrackers till January 1, 2025.

The order was issued by the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC), more than a month after Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai announced to impose the restrictions to control air pollution in winter months.

The Hindu had last week reported that firecrackers are being sold openly in the city in the absence of an official order following the government announcement on September 9.

Meanwhile, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) in the National Capital Region (NCR) and Adjoining Areas prohibited all construction and demolition activities being carried out on plots



Environment Minister Gopal Rai inspecting a construction site at Pitampura as part of an anti-dust campaign. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

na, U.P., and Rajasthan as part of 27 emergency pollution-control steps under Stage 1 of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP).

Other measures to curb air pollution under the GRAP Stage 1 include periodic mechanised sweeping, use of anti-smog guns, and prohibition on the use of diesel generator sets for power generation.

The CAQM took the decision as air pollution in the Capital's Anand Vihar entered the 'very poor'

poor', and 401 and 500 'severe'.

'L-G should intervene' Meanwhile, as part of his government's anti-dust campaign, Mr. Rai conducted a surprise inspection at a construction site in Pitampura and directed the DPCC to impose a fine of ₹50,000 on a private company for not following environmental norms.

Reacting to it, Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva appealed to Lieutenant-

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- The order was issued by the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC), more than a month after Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai announced to impose the restrictions to control air pollution in winter months.
- Meanwhile, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) in the National Capital Region (NCR) and Adjoining Areas prohibited all construction and demolition activities being carried out on plots measuring 500 sqm and above, and not registered on web portals of State governments. The CAQM ban will come into force from 8 a.m. on Tuesday in Delhi and NCR districts of Haryana, U.P., and Rajasthan as part of 27 emergency pollution-control steps under Stage 1 of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP).
- Other measures to curb air pollution under the GRAP Stage 1 include periodic mechanised sweeping, use of anti-smog guns, and prohibition on the use of diesel generator sets for power generation.

The Hindu-Governance(GSII)-Page 8

On Samsung workers' right to unionise

The necessity to form unions is obvious for voicing the demands and grievances of labour. It is therefore the obligation of the State, acting through the Registrar of Trade Unions, as the regulatory authority under the ITES Act, to register trade unions and give individual workers their voice.

LETTERS & OPINION
Editorial Response

The inclusion of their fundamental right to form a registered union to be collectively bargained for better terms of employment is at the heart of the growing Samsung India workers' independence in their work. They want to elect the trade union given an equal status with the negotiating union to jointly have a collective agreement regarding their work conditions. The state government, regarding the Samsung workers' complaint to resolve the problem and referred to police to investigate the workers' strike which began in September 2011, was not aware of the fact that the workers have a right to form a union. The Registrar of Trade Unions, who is the authority to register trade unions, is the one who should be approached to register the union. The Registrar of Trade Unions, who is the authority to register trade unions, is the one who should be approached to register the union. The Registrar of Trade Unions, who is the authority to register trade unions, is the one who should be approached to register the union.



Samsung workers have been on strike for the 5th day in 2011. The workers are demanding better wages and working conditions.

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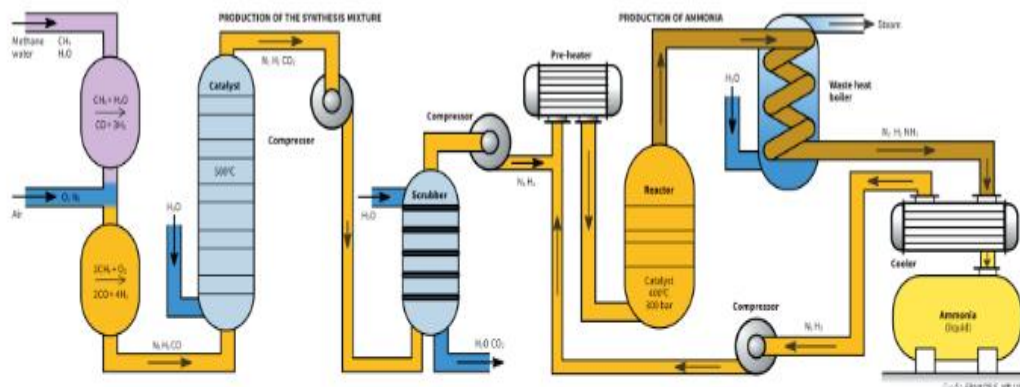
- The protests by Samsung India workers in Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu, center on their right to form a registered trade union, the Samsung India Workers Union (SIWU), to negotiate better employment terms.
- The Supreme Court recognizes the right to form unions as a fundamental right, emphasizing the necessity of collective bargaining for workers to voice their grievances.
- The Madras High Court has also highlighted the importance of this right for social justice. Collective bargaining aims to create agreements between employers and workers, and the process is protected under the Industrial Disputes Act.
- While the right to strike is legally recognized, it comes with restrictions under the Industrial Disputes Act.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu-Science and Tech(GSIII)-Page 9

How ammonia is made on an industrial scale

Ammonia is made of nitrogen and hydrogen. Under extreme heat, the molecules separate and form a compound, but it is short-lived because of the heat. The German chemist Fritz Haber heated the N_2-H_2 combination to various temperatures in a platinum cylinder and applied pressure to create ammonia. This graphic demonstrates the Haber-Bosch process.



How did the Haber-Bosch process change the world?

The Haber-Bosch method allowed industries to develop cheap synthetic fertilizers, which was a critical component in the sevenfold rise in the world's food supply during the 20th century. But environmentalists have said the utility of fertilizers can't be taken for granted. For one, Haber's nitrogen fertilizer is not harmless.

T.V. Venkateswaran

A hundred million tonnes of nitrogen are now removed from the atmosphere and converted into fertilizer via the Haber-Bosch process, adding 165 million

Humans and animals need nine pre-made nitrogen-rich amino acids from plants. Nitrogen makes up approximately 2.6% of the human body. The nitrogen ingested by plants and animals

earth. When Haber inserted an osmium sheet into the pressure chamber, filled it with a N_2-H_2 mixture, and heated them, the nitrogen triple bond cracked away, leaving reactive nitrogen to fuse with hydrogen and produce a very large amount of ammonia. German

- The Haber-Bosch process enables the conversion of atmospheric nitrogen into fertilizers, adding 165 million tonnes of reactive nitrogen to soil, crucial for food production.
- Nitrogen in the atmosphere primarily exists as N_2 (a diatomic molecule with a strong triple bond), making it inert. It can be converted into reactive forms (e.g., NH_3 , NH_4^+ , NO_3^-) that plants can utilize.

Natural Nitrogen Sources: Reactive nitrogen is replenished in nature mainly through lightning (which creates nitrogen oxides) and biological processes involving bacteria like Azotobacter and Rhizobia, which convert atmospheric nitrogen into usable forms for plants. Plants absorb reactive nitrogen from the soil. Animals and humans obtain nitrogen by consuming plants, and this nitrogen returns to the soil through excreta and decomposition. However, some nitrogen is lost back to the atmosphere, leading to soil depletion over time. Ammonia (NH_3) is produced from nitrogen and hydrogen under high temperatures and pressures through a reversible reaction. Fritz Haber's early experiments established conditions for ammonia synthesis.

The Hindu –GS 2(IR)-Page 10

India, Russia discuss training of sailors for polar navigation, development of joint projects

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

The India-Russia working group on cooperation in the Northern Sea Route (NSR) held their first meeting last week and discussed targets for Indian-Russian cargo transit, possible training of Indian sailors for polar navigation and development of joint projects in Arctic shipbuilding, Rosatom state corporation of Russia said on Monday.

“The working group also drafted a memorandum of understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation for the develop-

An MoU has been drafted between both countries for development of cooperation in cargo shipping in the NSR

go shipping in the waters of the NSR,” Rosatom said in a statement. In 2018, the Russian government appointed Rosatom the infrastructure operator of the NSR.

“One of Rosatom’s strategic goals is to make the NSR an effective shipping artery connecting Europe, Russia and the Asia-Pacific region. Ongoing is the preparation of a federal project to develop the

– a transport corridor from St. Petersburg and Kaliningrad to Vladivostok,” the statement said.

As India scaled up investments in Russia’s far East, cooperation on NSR figured in the joint statement issued after Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s visit to Moscow in July. Both sides shared approaches on building a “new architecture of stable and efficient transport corridors,” including for the purpose of “implementing the idea of a greater Eurasian space.”

In this context, the sides expressed readiness to actively work to expand logistics links with an emphasis on increasing the capacity

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The Hindu –Economy(GSIII)-Page 14

Trio wins economics Nobel for work on wealth inequality

Agence France-Presse
STOCKHOLM

The Nobel prize in economics was awarded on Monday to Turkish-American Daron Acemoglu and British-Americans Simon Johnson and James Robinson for research into wealth inequality between nations.

By examining the various political and economic systems introduced by European colonisers, the three have demonstrated a relationship between societal institutions and prosperity, the jury said.



The three researchers examined the various political and economic systems introduced by European colonisers. REUTERS

Jakob Svensson, chair of the Committee for the

Institute of Technology (MIT).

Mr. Robinson, 64, is a professor at the University of Chicago.

The jury highlighted the laureates' work in illuminating how political and economic institutions play a role in explaining why some countries prosper while others do not.

'Inclusive institutions'

In a statement explaining the prize, the jury noted the example of the city of Nogales, which is divided by the U.S.-Mexican border where residents on the

culture, but institutions," the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said.

The U.S. economic system provides residents north of the border greater opportunities to choose their education and profession, and they are part of the U.S. political system, which gives them broad political rights.

By contrast, south of the border, residents live under other economic conditions, and the political system limits their potential to influence legislation.

In addition, the jury noted that the laureates' re-

growth."

Mr. Acemoglu, who was "delighted" to receive the award, told reporters that the "work that we have done favours democracy."

Speaking via telephone from Athens as the award was announced in Stockholm, Mr. Acemoglu said that the economies of "countries that democratise, starting from a non-democratic regime" grow faster than non-democratic regimes. "And it's a substantial gain," Mr. Acemoglu said.

Mr. Acemoglu is the author of several best-sell-

- The Nobel prize in economics was awarded on Monday to Turkish-American Daron Acemoglu and British-Americans Simon Johnson and James Robinson for research into wealth inequality between nations.
- By examining the various political and economic systems introduced by European colonisers, the three have demonstrated a relationship between societal institutions and prosperity, the jury said.
- "Reducing the vast differences in income between countries is one of our time's greatest challenges
- Acemoglu, Johnson, and Robinson have shown how some countries become trapped in low economic growth due to their political and economic conditions

Indian Express –Internal Security(GSIII)-Page 9

PMLA allows bail for sick and infirm: SC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 14

GRANTING INTERIM bail to an accused in a money laundering case, the Supreme Court on Monday said that the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) permits bail for those who are sick and infirm.

"However stringent PMLA is, as judges we have to operate in the four corners of the law. Law tells us that someone who is sick and infirm be granted bail. That he could be treated at a government hospital is no answer to what the statute says. Sick or infirm means you can be granted bail," Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud said, while presiding over a three-judge bench.

The bench, which included Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, was hearing the bail plea filed by Amar Sadhuram Mulchandani, 67, former chairperson of Seva Vikas Cooperative Bank who was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on the charge of money laundering on July 1, 2023, based on the

"Proviso to Section 45 (1) of PMLA specifically contemplates that a person who 'is sick or infirm' may be released on bail if the special court so directs. Based on the medical evaluation, which has been provided by the medical team at the Grant Medical College and Sir JJ Group of Hospitals, Mumbai, it is evident that the petitioner fulfils the threshold required for being enlarged on bail," the bench said in its order.

On August 9 this year, the Bombay High Court had dismissed Mulchandani's second application for bail on medical grounds. He then approached the Supreme Court which issued notice on September 2. On October 4, the Supreme Court directed that a fresh medical evaluation be conducted by the team at Grant Medical College and Sir JJ Group of Hospitals, Mumbai. The evaluation was done by a team of four experts and a report was submitted to the court.

Appearing for Mulchandani, Senior Advocate Mukul Rohatgi said the petitioner was suffering from chronic kidney disease and could not perform daily activities.

- GRANTING INTERIM bail to an accused in a money laundering case, the Supreme Court said that the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) permits bail for those who are sick and infirm.
- "Proviso to Section 45 (1) of PMLA specifically contemplates that a person who 'is sick or infirm' may be released on bail if the special court so directs

CLIPPER WILL TAKE OVER 5 YEARS TO REACH JUPITER AND SNEAK CLOSE TO ITS MOON IN 49 PERIODICAL FLYBYS

NASA launches spacecraft to scour Jupiter moon Europa for ingredients for life

MARCIA DUNN

CAPE CANAVERAL, OCTOBER 14

A NASA spacecraft rocketed away Monday on a quest to explore Jupiter's tantalising moon Europa and reveal whether its vast hidden ocean might hold the keys to life.

It will take Europa Clipper 5 1/2 years to reach Jupiter, where it will slip into orbit around the giant gas planet and sneak close to Europa during dozens of radiation-drenched flybys.

Scientists are almost certain a deep, global ocean exists beneath

Europa's icy crust. And where there is water, there could be life, making the moon one of the most promising places out there.

Europa Clipper won't look for life; it has no life detectors. Instead, the spacecraft will zero in on the ingredients necessary to sustain life, searching for organic compounds and other clues as it peers beneath the ice for suitable conditions.

"Ocean worlds like Europa are not only unique because they might be habitable, but they might be habitable today," NASA's Gina DiBraccio said on the eve of launch. SpaceX started Clipper on

its 3 billion-kilometre journey, launching the spacecraft on a Falcon Heavy rocket from Florida's Kennedy Space Centre.

The \$5.2 billion mission almost got derailed by transistors.

NASA didn't learn until spring that Clipper's transistors might be more vulnerable to Jupiter's intense radiation field than anticipated. Clipper will endure the equivalent of several million chest X-rays during each of the 49 Europa flybys. The space agency spent months re-viewing everything before concluding in September that the mission could proceed as



SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket with the NASA spacecraft lifts off from Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Monday. AP

planned. Hurricane Milton added to the anxiety, delaying the launch by several days.

About the size of a basketball court with its solar wings unfurled, Clipper will swing past Mars and then Earth on its way to Jupiter for gravity assists. The nearly 5,700-kilogram probe should reach the solar system's biggest planet in 2030.

Clipper will circle Jupiter every 21 days. One of those days will bring it close to Europa, close to our own moon in size.

The spacecraft will skim as low as 16 miles (25 km) above Europa—much closer than the few previ-

ous visitors. Onboard radar will attempt to penetrate the moon's ice sheet, believed to be 15 km to 24 km thick. The ocean below could be 120 km or more deep.

The spacecraft holds nine instruments, with its sensitive electronics stored in a vault with dense zinc and aluminum walls for protection against radiation. Exploration will last until 2034.

If conditions are found to be favourable for life at Europa, then that opens up the possibility of life at other ocean worlds in our solar system and beyond, according to scientists. With an underground ocean and geysers,

Saturn's moon Enceladus is another top candidate.

NASA's twin Pioneer spacecraft and then two Voyagers swept past Jupiter in the 1970s. The Voyagers provided the first detailed photos of Europa but from quite a distance. NASA's Galileo spacecraft had repeated flybys of the moon during the 1990s, passing as close as 200 kilometers. Still in action around Jupiter, NASA's Juno spacecraft has added to Europa's photo album. Arriving at Jupiter a year after Clipper will be the European Space Agency's Juice spacecraft, launched last year.

- NASA launches Europa Clipper to scour Jupiter moon for life's ingredients
- Main Goal: Determine if there are locations below Europa's icy surface that could support life.
- Science Objectives:
 - Understand the nature of Europa's ice shell.
 - Investigate the subsurface ocean.
 - Analyze the moon's composition and geology.
- It is NASA's largest planetary spacecraft, measuring about 16 feet (5 meters) tall and spanning over 100 feet (30.5 meters) with solar arrays deployed.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY



PIB–Governance(GSII)

Prime Minister's Office



PM to inaugurate ITU World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly 2024 in New Delhi on 15th October

PM to also inaugurate 8th edition of India Mobile Congress 2024

For the first time the ITU-WTSA will be hosted in India and the Asia-Pacific

3,000 industry leaders, policy-makers and tech experts from over 190 countries to participate in ITU-WTSA

Theme of the 8th edition of India Mobile Congress is "The Future is now"

India Mobile Congress 2024 will showcase over 400 exhibitors, about 900 startups, and participation from over 120 countries

Posted On: 14 OCT 2024 5:31PM by PIB Delhi

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the International Telecommunication Union - World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) 2024 and the 8th India Mobile Congress on October 15, 2024, at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.
- WTSA Overview:
 - Governing conference for the standardization work of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).
 - First time hosted in India and the Asia-Pacific region.
 - Focus Areas: Discussions on standards for next-generation technologies like 6G, AI, IoT, Big Data, and cybersecurity.
 - **India Mobile Congress 2024 Highlights:** Showcase of India's innovation ecosystem. Focus on advancements in Quantum technology, Circular Economy, 6G, 5G use cases, cloud & edge computing, IoT, semiconductors, cybersecurity, green tech, satcom, and electronics manufacturing. Asia's largest digital technology forum with participation from 120+ countries.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Air-IR(GSII)



- The Audiovisual Co-production Agreement between India and Colombia will be signed in New Delhi. This agreement is expected to benefit producers from both countries in pooling their creative, artistic, technical, financial and marketing resources for the co-production.
- The agreement will also lead to an exchange of art and culture among the two countries. It will also create goodwill and better understanding among the people of both countries thereby boosting cultural ties between the two countries.
- Currently, India has co-production treaties with 16 countries, resulting in 29 projects over the last five years. Colombia is the 17th country with which India is signing a Co-Production Agreement.